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Docket No. 1963-4727

Paper #13 1/2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 08/933,500
Applicants : Filepp et al.
Filed : September 18, 1997
TC/A.U. : 2153
Examiner : Dung C. Dinh

Confirmation No.: 6468

Docket No. : 1963-4727
Customer No. : 27123

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MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154-0053
(212) 758-4800 Telephone
(212) 751-6849 Facsimile



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INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Mail Stop
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Dinh and Special Program Examiners Ballato and Laufer for the courtesies given to the undersigned attorney for Applicants during an interview on September 3, 2003. This communication serves to summarize the interview.

At the outset, the undersigned attorney for Applicants pointed out that Applicants' invention concerns a method for improving the performance of an interactive computer network to enable it to be used on an extremely wide-scale basis which had never before been accomplished. In accordance with Applicants' teaching, steps are described for reducing system response time to user information requests and for enabling inclusion of data rich content; as for example, graphics in the information provided. Moreover, by using distributed storage control as claimed, Prodigy was able to implement a much more cost effective network than would otherwise be possible in a system that did not use the remote computer's storage and computing resources. Utilizing the power of the PC was at the heart of the claimed invention.

As to the demonstration of a Prodigy prototype at the West Coast Computer Faire in San Francisco, California during the week of April 7, 1988, the undersigned attorney for Applicants pointed out that an incomplete system was demonstrated as the Prodigy Service was not generally available then and was not offered for sale. Also, the version of the reception system software that was demonstrated was subsequently revised twice during the third phase and development test. A demonstration diskette was distributed. The demonstration diskette did not contain software allowing one to access the Prodigy Service. Rather, the demonstration diskette allowed the user to display "screen shots" of the Service similar to a slide presentation of the Prodigy Service. Thus, the demonstration diskette was not a demonstration or use of the Prodigy Service. The purpose of the presentation at the Computer Faire was to access the Prodigy Service as it then existed and then plan for future development and recruit future testers.

During the third phase of testing, problems resulted in the software of the system that required modification of the stage.dat file. This file contained data stored locally at the user's computer, which is a claimed aspect of the copied claims. This shows that the system required experimental testing to see whether it could be used by larger numbers of people as was intended.

The undersigned attorney for Applicants also pointed out that the third phase testing was relatively short in comparison to the first and second phase of testing.

Lastly, the undersigned attorney for Applicants briefly reviewed how all material limitations of the copied claims were found in amended Claim 1 of Applicants' grandparent application which was pending more than one year prior to one year after the Hill '490 patent issued, as discussed more fully on pages 41-63 of the Response to the Office Action filed May 5, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



Israel Blum
Registration No. 26,710

Dated: September 30, 2003

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345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154-0053
(212) 758-4800 Telephone
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